reorganisation was the increase in the number of the charging stations and placing them all in charge of a new class of officers, Sub-Inspectors, who should ordinarily be graduates appointed straight on to the Department. The character of Police work is already showing signs of improvement, as the result of this substitution of the Sub-Inspectors in the place of the old Head Constables for the charge of stations. It is, however, inevitable that, with such a large number of new hands in charge of the stations, efficiency should suffer to some extent at the outset. As, however, the Sub-Inspectors pick up experience, the Government are sanguine that the work of the Police would improve in every way. The number of policemen prosecuted fell from 100 to 66; the percentage of conviction remained, however, practically unchanged, being 12, against 11 in the previous year. Vigorous action was taken during the year to detect cases of false coining—of Sirkar as well as of British Indian coins. 13 of such cases were reported during the year, of which 9 were disposed of and 4 were pending when the year closed; of the 9 cases disposed of, 4 cases ended in conviction and 5 in acquittal.

12. **The Central Prison.**—There was an increase in the number of prisoners, the average daily strength of the convicted prisoners rising from 423 to 468. The percentage of sick to strength fell, however, from seven to four, and the daily average of sick from 31 to 21. The number of deaths also fell from 24 to 12. Jail earnings showed improvement, the receipts rising from Rs. 43,000 to Rs. 67,500; the increase has been solely under Printing and Binding work. I should add, in explanation, that this work is done wholly for the departments of Government and that there can be no question, therefore, of any competition with private enterprise.

13. **Criminal Justice.**— The number of Criminal Courts rose from 64 to 67, the increase being due to the establishment of three more Stationary Magistrates' Courts, at Kottayam, Vycome and Mundakayam. And since the close of the year, two more Stationary Magistrates' Courts have been established, at Karunagapalli and Sherthallai. During the last six years, so many as 8 Stationary Magistrates' Courts have been newly opened for the purpose of relieving the Tahsildars, and in the result, several Tahsildars are now wholly free from magisterial work; and in the case of several others, the magisterial duties have been substantially reduced. The Government recognise that, in view to the large increase that has taken place in the work of Tahsildars in recent years, more relief is still due to them, and the policy of giving that relief—by the appointment of Stationary Magistrates—will be continued. While dealing with Criminal Justice, I would specially mention the fall in the number of juveniles brought to trial and convicted, and also the increasing percentage of them committed to the Reformatory. Again, in regard to public servants, the Government note with some satisfaction that the evil of the reckless prosecution of public servants has begun to show some abatement ; the number of public servants prosecuted fell from 202 to 147, the number convicted rising from 5 to 15. You could gauge the volume of the insecurity from the circumstance that, out of the 147 prosecutions, only 32 were initiated by the Government or heads of departments, the remaining 115 prosecutions having been started by private individuals ; out of the 32 Governmental prosecutions, so many as 11 ended in conviction, but only 4 cases ended in conviction out of the 115 private prosecutions. The Criminal Procedure Code Regulation has been recently amended and Magistrates are now competent to award compensation to the accused in warrant cases (as they already were in summons cases) where the prosecutions are frivolous. The volume of work done by the several Criminal Courts shewed no material change, but the work was done with somewhat greater expedition. Though the number of witnesses examined by the Magistracy rose from 37,890 to 40,314, the number detained beyond 3 days fell from 537 to 173.

14. **Civil Justice.**—The civil litigation of the State increased as usual—from 62,385 to 69,258. I am speaking of the *fresh* institutions. The increase was wholly in the original suits filed in the Munsiffs' Courts. The original suits filed in the District Courts fell slightly, and the appeal suits fell both in the District Courts and in the High Court. The Munsiffs' Courts were unable to keep abreast of the increasing volume of their fresh work; their arrears rose from 15,592 to 17,618 ; the number of suits of between one and two years' pendency on their file also rose, from 2,164 to 3,696, and that of more than two years' pendency from 286 to 355. The largest

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